



Janice K. Brewer  
Governor

# ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1110 West Washington Street • Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
(602) 771-2300 • [www.azdeq.gov](http://www.azdeq.gov)



Henry R. Darwin  
Director

February 20, 2014

Hickman's Egg Ranch, Inc.  
Attn: Shari Yeatts  
6515 S. Jackrabbit Trail  
Buckeye, AZ 85326

Re: Complaint inspection of Hickman's Egg Ranch-Arlington/North, Inspection ID: 210545

Dear Mrs. Yeatts,

Enclosed is a complaint inspection report prepared by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's (ADEQ's) Water Quality Field Services Unit #2 (WQFSU2) concerning the inspection conducted at Hickman's Egg Ranch-Arlington North and Arlington South, on February 6, 2014. The purpose of the inspection, conducted pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) §49-203(B)(1), was to evaluate the facility's compliance with the rules and laws pertaining to the protection of "State Waters" through the regulation of the usage and discharge of manure and wastewater generated at concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO) (A.A.C. R18-9-402 and 403). As indicated in the enclosed "Summary of Inspection," there were no deficiencies documented for those criteria evaluated during the on-site inspection of Hickman's Egg Ranch-Arlington North and Arlington South. No further action will result from this inspection.

Should you have any questions regarding this report, please do not hesitate to contact me at (602) 771-4509 or email to [syl@azdeq.gov](mailto:syl@azdeq.gov).

Sincerely,

Spencer York, CAFO Program Coordinator  
Water Quality Field Services Unit #2

Enclosures: Complaint Inspection Form, Notice of Inspection Rights Form



**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
WATER QUALITY DIVISION  
COMPLAINT INSPECTION**

Inspection ID 210545

<b>Background Information</b>			
Complaint ID	10458	Inspector Name	Spencer York
Permit Number	AZG2004-002	Inspection Date	2/6/2014
Place ID	9932	Entry Time	10:30
Facility Type	CAFO	Exit Time	12:30

<b>Facility Location Information</b>			
Facility Name	Hickman's Egg Ranch-Arlington/ North and South		
Facility Address	32425 W. Salome Hwy Arlington, AZ 85326		
Mailing Address	6415 S. Jackrabbit Trail, Buckeye, AZ 85326		
GPS Coordinates	Latitude	33° 21' 52.7796" N	Longitude 112° 45' 1.9404" W
Receiving Water(s)	Luke Wash: Located approximately 4 miles to the West of the facility. Hassayumpa River: Located approximately 5 miles to the East of the facility.		

<b>Facility Contact Information</b>		
Name and Address		Telephone
Owner	Glen Hickman	(623) 872-1120
Operator	Glen Hickman	(623) 872-1120
Co-Permitee(s)		

<b>Inspection Rights</b>			
Inspection Rights Form	The Inspection Rights Form was provided and signed by an authorized on-site representative?	<u>Y</u>	N
Name of Person	Shari Yeats		
Position	Compliance Manager		
Complainant Name:	Judith Henderson	Phone: (623) 570-6161	
Inspector Signature:		Date: 2/6/2014	

<u>Basic Permit Information (circle one)</u>			<u>Overall Observations</u>		
Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) General Permit For Concentrated Animal Feeding Activities AZG2004-002	<u>Y</u>	N	The facility operates in compliance with the CAFO general permit and part 651 Agricultural Waste Management Field Handbook, Chapter 10 – Agricultural Waste Management Systems Component Design, Page 10-54 (6) Composting.	<u>Y</u>	N

<u>General</u>	
<b>Describe the Complaint</b>	Poor manure management can cause very high nitrate concentrations in the watershed. This situation could be a potential community health risk because the U. S. E. P. A. Stipulates the maximum level should be 10mg/L. This site has for years piled huge amount of chicken waste and decomposing chickens on the open ground. Nitrates act by releasing nitric oxide. This causes cardiovascular problems as well as illness including death in babies younger than 6 months that drink the water. High levels of nitrates are linked with cancer. Also, manure combustion pollutes air with bad odors, fugitive dust, and other resulting gases of the decomposition process. These deposits attract vectors that increase public health risk. Please collect soil and underground water samples from the Arlington site. This report is filed with ADEQ and EPA. I highly suggest that ADEQ oppose the Hickman Chicken Plant to be developed in Tonopah, AZ. This plant (under the agriculture umbrella) is to be developed within 1/2 mile (or less) of pre-existing homes and businesses. How can this happen and the well being of the entire community be put at risk?
<b>Your Observations</b>	During the complaint response inspection conducted on February 6, 2014 at the Hickman's Egg Ranch-Arlington/ North and South facility, it was observed that the facility is in compliance with the Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) General Permit For Concentrated Animal Feeding Activities AZG2004-002. The Hickman's facility utilizes the Windrow method of composting in compliance with: Part 651 Agricultural Waste Management Field Handbook, Chapter 10 – Agricultural Waste Management Systems Component Design, Page 10-54 (6) Composting. All wastewater impoundments are lined and operating in compliance with AZPDES, General Permit For Concentrated Animal Feeding Activities. AZG2004-002.
<b>Facility with Coverage</b>	Hickman's Egg Ranch-Arlington/ North and South is covered under the AZPDES, General Permit For Concentrated Animal Feeding Activities. AZG2004-002

<b>ADEQ Further Action Recommended</b>	No deficiencies were observed. No further action is required.
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**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**  
**NOTICE OF INSPECTION RIGHTS**

Water Quality Division, Water Quality Compliance Section, Water Quality Industrial Field Service Unit

Part I. A. FACILITY INFORMATION	Part I. B. ADEQ INFORMATION
Facility Name: Hickman's Egg Ranch-Arlington/North Facility Location: 32425 W. Salome Hwy., Arlington, AZ 85322 Mailing Address: 6515 S. Jackrabbit Trail Buckeye, AZ 85326  Regulated Person's Name: Glen Hickman Regulated Person's Tele: (623) 872-1120  On-site Rep's Name: Shari Yeatts On-site Rep's Title: Compliance Manager On-site Rep's Tele: (623) 872-2358  Inspection ID: 210545	Date of Inspection: February 6, 2014 County: Maricopa Inspection By: Spencer J. York, CAFO Coordinator Accompanied By: N/A  Facility Contact: Spencer J. York Telephone: (602) 771-4509  Time of Entry: 10:30 Time of Exit: 12:30

**Part II.**

The ADEQ representative(s) identified above were present at the above address on the above listed date and time. Upon entry to the premises, the ADEQ representative(s) met with me, presented photo identification that they are ADEQ employees and explained that the purpose of this inspection is/was:

☒ To determine compliance with A.A.C.R18-9-402,403

(Agricultural General Permits: Nitrogen Fertilizers and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations)

☒ To determine compliance with A.A.C.R18-9- D901-D905

(Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES))

☒ To determine compliance with A.A.C.R18-11-108,109

(Narrative and Numeric Water Quality Standards)

☒ AZPDES CAFO General Permit AZG2004-002

☒ That this inspection is conducted pursuant to the authority granted in Arizona Revised Statutes §49-104 (B)(8) and A.R.S. §49-203B(1)

☒ There is no fee for this inspection.

Part III.

I understand that I can accompany the ADEQ representative(s) on the premises, except during confidential interviews.

I understand that I have right to:

- a) Copies of any original documents taken during the inspection, and that ADEQ will provide copies of those documents at ADEQ's expense.
- b) A split of any samples taken during the inspection, if the split of the samples would not prohibit an analysis from being conducted or render an analysis inconclusive. I do \_\_\_\_\_ do not \_\_\_\_ wish to have splits of any samples taken.
- c) Copies of any analysis performed on samples taken during the inspection and that ADEQ would provide copies of this analysis at ADEQ expense.

I also understand that:

- a) Each person interviewed during the inspection will be informed that statements made by the person may be included in the inspection report.
- b) Each person whose conversation is tape recorded during the inspection will be informed that the conversation is being tape recorded.
- c) If an administrative order is issued or a permit decision is made based on the results of the inspection, I have the right to appeal that administrative order or permit decision. I understand that my administrative hearing rights are set forth in A.R.S. § 41-1092 *et seq.* and my rights relating to an appeal of a final agency decision are found in A.R.S. § 12-901 *et seq.*
- d) If I have any questions or concerns about this inspection, I may contact either the CAFO Coordinator at (602) 771- 4509 or the Water Quality Field Services Unit #2 Manager at (602) 771- 4253.
- e) If I have any questions concerning my rights to appeal an administrative order or permit decision, I may contact the Office of Administrative Counsel at (602) 771-4251.

Part IV. While I have the right to decline to sign this form, the ADEQ representatives may still proceed with the inspection/investigation. The signature merely acknowledges receipt of this Notice of Inspection Rights.

1. ☒ I have read this Notification and discussed any questions or concerns with the ADEQ representatives. \_\_\_\_\_


Regulated Person or Authorized On-Site Representative


2. ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ refused to sign the Notification.


3. ☐ The regulated person or authorized on-site representative is not present at the facility.


ADEQ Representative's Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Spencer J. York, CAFO Coordinator


	<b>Water Quality Compliance Section Industrial Field Services Unit</b>		<b>Exhibit A</b> <b>Image/Photographic Log</b>
<b>Facility Location: Hickman's Eggs Ranch</b> <b>32425 W. Salome Highway, Arlington AZ. 85322</b> <b>Lat: 33° 21' 52.7796" N, Long: 112° 45' 1.9404" W</b> <b>Inspection(s) ID# 210545</b> <b>ADEQ Place ID #9932</b>		<b>Image Creator/Photographer:</b> Spencer York	<b>Digital Camera Info:</b> Sony Model #: Cyber Shot DSC- H90


<b>Image/Photo Number:</b> 1	<b>Date:</b> 2/6/2014	
<b>Image/Photo Description:</b>  A view of the Arlington North wastewater pond. This pond is lined with 40 mil. plastic is located behind the Arlington North Processing Plant. The pond dimensions are 450 feet long by 150 feet wide, with a depth of 8 feet. All lagoons and stormwater retention basins at Hickman's are lined.		


<b>Image/Photo Number:</b> 2	<b>Date:</b> 2/6/2014	
<b>Image/Photo Description:</b>  A view of the Arlington South wastewater pond. This pond is lined with 40 mil. plastic and is located behind the Arlington South processing plant. The pond dimensions are 250 feet long by 100 feet wide, with a depth of 6 feet. All lagoons and stormwater retention basins at Hickman's are lined.		


	<b>Water Quality Compliance Section Industrial Field Services Unit</b>		<b>Exhibit A</b> <b>Image/Photographic Log</b>
<b>Facility Location: Hickman's Eggs Ranch</b> <b>32425 W. Salome Highway, Arlington AZ. 85322</b> <b>Lat: 33° 21' 52.7796" N, Long: 112° 45' 1.9404" W</b> <b>Inspection(s) ID# 210545</b> <b>ADEQ Place ID #9932</b>		<b>Image Creator/Photographer:</b> Spencer York	<b>Digital Camera Info:</b> Sony Model #: Cyber Shot DSC- H90


<b>Image/Photo Number:</b> 3	<b>Date:</b> 2/6/2014
<b>Image/Photo Description:</b>  A view of manure being uploaded onto a collection vehicle. The manure is transported to the composting area for blending and placement into windrows.	


A photograph of a large white collection vehicle, possibly a manure spreader or composting machine, parked on a dirt surface. A blue conveyor belt system is mounted on the vehicle, discharging a pile of light-colored material (manure) into the back of the vehicle. The vehicle is positioned in front of a large, light-colored building with many circular openings, likely a composting facility. The ground is dirt.


	<b>Water Quality Compliance Section Industrial Field Services Unit</b>		<b>Exhibit A</b> <b>Image/Photographic Log</b>
<b>Facility Location: Hickman's Eggs Ranch</b> <b>32425 W. Salome Highway, Arlington AZ. 85322</b> <b>Lat: 33° 21' 52.7796" N, Long: 112° 45' 1.9404" W</b> <b>Inspection(s) ID# 210545</b> <b>ADEQ Place ID #9932</b>		<b>Image Creator/Photographer:</b> Spencer York	<b>Digital Camera Info:</b> Sony Model #: Cyber Shot DSC- H90

<b>Image/Photo Number:</b> 4	<b>Date:</b> 2/6/2014	
<b>Image/Photo Description:</b> Composted manure in windrows for blending. The windrows are segregated by laying house to avoid any cross contamination.		

<b>Image/Photo Number:</b> 5	<b>Date:</b> 2/6/2014	
<b>Image/Photo Description:</b> Another view of compost windrows. All manure rows are located on the Arlington North Parcel 401-30-004D. The Hickman's facility operates in compliance with the CAFO general permit and part 651 Agricultural Waste Management Field Handbook, Chapter 10 – Agricultural Waste Management Systems Component Design, Page 10-54 (6) Composting.		

	Water Quality Compliance Section Industrial Field Services Unit		<b>Exhibit A</b> Image/Photographic Log
<b>Facility Location:</b> Hickman's Eggs Ranch 32425 W. Salome Highway, Arlington AZ. 85322 <b>Lat:</b> 33° 21' 52.7796" N, <b>Long:</b> 112° 45' 1.9404" W <b>Inspection(s) ID#</b> 210545 <b>ADEQ Place ID</b> #9932		<b>Image Creator/Photographer:</b> Spencer York	<b>Digital Camera Info:</b> Sony Model #: Cyber Shot DSC- H90

<b>Image/Photo Number:</b> 6	<b>Date:</b> 2/6/2014	
<b>Image/Photo Description:</b> The new style of lay houses collect manure and deliver it via conveyor belt to the semi enclosed storage area where it is placed into indoor windrows. This material will then be transported to the compost pellet mill to be heated to remove microbes and then packaged for sale.		

<b>Image/Photo Number:</b> 6	<b>Date:</b> 2/6/2014	
<b>Image/Photo Description:</b> A view of windrowed manure enclosed in a lay house. Cement flooring prevents nitrate leaching into the soil. The manure will be delivered from the lay house windrows directly to the pellet mill for heating and final packaging.		

## Spencer York

AZG 2004-002

**From:** ADEQ Web Complaint  
**Sent:** Monday, February 03, 2014 10:23 AM  
**To:** Spencer York; luckydog007@wildblue.net  
**Subject:** ADEQ Complaint Received - HENDERSON, JUDITH - Complaint ID 10458

This e-mail has been sent by an automated system. Please do not reply to this message directly.

The complaint filed using the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) web site on 02/01/2014 has been received. Please contact Spencer York at (602) 771-4509 with any questions or for more information. When contacting ADEQ regarding the complaint, please reference complaint number 10458.

Following is the complaint information submitted:

Site Name: Hickman's Egg Farm

Site Address: 32425 W. Salome Hwy.

Site Phone: 623 386 1333

Type of Operation: Egg Plant

Major Cross Streets: Salome Hwy/Ward

Nearest City: Buckeye

County: Maricopa

Description of verifying documents: photos

Date of Occurrence: 02/01/2014

Time of Occurrence: any

Substance involved in Occurrence: waste management

Estimated quantity of substance involved: tons and tons of chicken manure/shredded chickens

Best time to witness (if ongoing): any

Description of Complaint: Poor manure management can cause very high nitrate concentrations in the watershed. This situation could be a potential community health risk because the U. S. E. P. A. stipulates the maximum level should be 10mg/L. This site has for years piled huge amount of chicken waste and decomposing chickens on the open ground. Nitrates act by releasing nitric oxide. This causes cardiovascular problems as well as illness including death in babies younger than 6 months that drink the water. High levels of nitrates are linked with cancer. Also, manure combustion pollutes air with bad odors, fugitive dust, and other resulting gases of the decomposition process. These deposits attract vectors that increase public health risk. Please collect soil and underground water samples from the Arlington site. This report is filed with ADEQ and EPA. I highly suggest that ADEQ oppose the Hickman Chicken Plant to be

developed in Tponah, AZ. This plant (under the agriculture umbrella) is to be developed within 1/2 mile (or less) of pre-existing homes and businesses. How can this happen and the well being of the entire community be put at risk?

Environmental Medium most affected: Water

Complainant Name: Judith Henderson

Complainant Address: po box 685

Complainant City: Harquahala Valley

Complainant State: AZ

Complainant Zip: 85354

Complainant Email: [luckydog007@wildblue.net](mailto:luckydog007@wildblue.net)

Complainant Phone: 623 570 6161

Referred to ADEQ?: no

Referred by:

Contact with results?: yes

Will release of name result in substantial harm?: no

Description of harm:



**Arizona Department of Environmental Quality**  
**Complaint Receipt Form**

**Site/Operator/Source Name:**

Place Not Determined

**Responsible Party:**

Responsible Party Not Determined

<b>Date:</b> 02/03/14	<b>Taken By:</b>
<b>Complaint #:</b> 10458	
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	<b>Priority Code:</b>
<b>Assigned to:</b> York, Spencer	<b>Phone:</b> (602) 771-4509

**Address:**

Address Not Found

**Location:**

**Phone:**

**Type of Operation:**

**Major Cross Streets:**

Hickman's Egg Farm  
32425 W. Salome Hwy.  
Salome Hwy/Ward  
Buckeye  
Egg Plant

**County:** Maricopa

**Description of Complaint:**

Poor manure management can cause very high nitrate concentrations in the watershed. This situation could be a potential community health risk because the U.S. E.P.A. stipulates the maximum level should be 10mg/L. This site has for years piled huge amount of chicken waste and decomposing chickens on the open ground. Nitrates act by releasing nitric oxide. This causes cardiovascular problems as well as illness including death in babies younger than 6 months that drink the water. High levels of nitrates are linked with cancer. Also, manure combustion pollutes air with bad odors, fugitive dust, and other resulting gases of the decomposition process. These deposits attract vectors that increase public health risk. Please collect soil and underground water samples from the Arlington site. This report is filed with ADEQ and EPA. I highly suggest that ADEQ oppose the Hickman Chicken Plant to be developed in Tonopah, AZ. This plant (under the agriculture umbrella) is to be developed within 1/2 mile (or less) of pre-existing homes and businesses. How can this happen and the well being of the entire community be put at risk?

**Date of Occurrence:** 02/01/14

**Substance Involved:** waste management

**Quantity of Substance:** tons and tons of chicken  
manur

**Medium Affected:** Water

**Best Time to Witness:** any

**Verifying Documentation:**

**Complainant Name:**

Henderson, Judith

**Referring Agency:**

**Phone:** (623) 570-6161

**Agent's Name:**

**E-Mail:**

**Phone:**

**Address:** P.O Box 685  
Tonopah, Az 85354

"Do you feel that release of your name may result in substantial harm to any person, including yourself, or to the public health or safety?" NO

**"Have you been referred to ADEQ?"** NO

**If YES, describe:**

**By Whom:**

**Follow-up Requested:** YES

Case Referred: YES NO

If YES, to whom:

Date Referred:

Date Inspected:

Status:

Inspector's Notes: